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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(6)

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 HA-06 SY-05 STE-00 DOT-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACOA-12 SPRS-02 EUR-12 /098 W

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O R 170130Z NOV 80
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1165
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 7996

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: HOMILY FOR NOVEMBER 16

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS HOMILY FOR NOVEMBER 16 BISHOP RIVERA AGAIN CONDEMNED MILITARY REPREPRESSION BUT WENT ON TO SAY THAT LEFTIST GROUPS ARE ALSO GUILTY OF VIOLENCE. HE CONDEMNED LEFTIST REPRISAL KILLINGS OF AT LEAST ELEVEN CAMPESINOS AND THE NOV 13 GRENADE ATTACK AGAINST A POLICE TRUCK. RIVERA ALSO REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, SAYING THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD WALKED OUT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE BECAUSE THEY WERE DENIED THE RIGHT TO SPEAK. QUOTING LIBERALLY FROM THE NICARAGUAN BISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER, MONSIGNOR RIVERA STRESSED THE DANGER TO THE CHURCH PRESENTED BY "MATERIALIST IDEOLOGY" AND BY DISCORDANT, IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED PRIESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MONSIGNOR ARTURO RIVERA Y DAMAS, THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR FOR SAN SALVADOR, GAVE THE HOMILY AT SAN SALVADOR'S METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL ON NOV 16. SOME OF HIS COMMENTS FOLLOW.
THE BISHOP BEGAN HIS SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS WEEKS CIVIL EVENTS BY REMINDING THE AUDIENCE THAT HIS COMMENTS ARE BASED STRICTLY ON THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE GOSPEL. AMONG THESE PRINCIPLES HE CITED RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE, DEFENSE OF THE LIBERTY AND DIGNITY OF MAN, PROMOTION OF JUSTICE AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. HE SAID THAT THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT TIED TO ANY "SYSTEM" BUT IS SIMPLY ANNOUNCED SO THAT MEN OF GOODWILL WILL HEED IT.
MSGR. RIVERA AGAIN LAUDED THE PEACE TREATY BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. HE SAID THAT EL SALVADOR HAD TAKEN A STEP ON THE ROAD TO PEACE BY RATIFYING THE TREATY ON NOV 14. HE CITED THE STATEMENTS MADE BY COL. MAJANO DURING THE SIGNING CEREMONY REGARDING THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE'S DESIRE FOR PEACE. (SEPTEL).
THE BISHOP WENT ON TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH THE U.N. VOTE ON BELIZE. HE SAID THAT THE CHURCH HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED ITS STANCE IN FAVOR OF THE SELF DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES.

3. MSGR. RIVERA NEXT TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO NICARAGUA. HE BEGAN BY EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE BORDER CLASHES BETWEEN HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA. HE THEN WENT ON TO COMMENT AT LENGTH ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN NICARAGUA. HE POINTED OUT THAT "THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE LEFT THE COUNCIL OF STATE BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T ALLOWED TO SPEAK, AS WAS THEIR RIGHT, IN THAT COUNCIL." HE WENT ON TO QUOTE FROM THE NICARAGUAN BISHOPS' OCT 23 PASTORAL LETTER. RIVERA CITED THE LETTER'S REFERENCE TO THE DANGER PRESENTED BY A "MATERIALIST IDEOLOGY" TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH. HE CONTINUED BY NOTING THAT "AS COULD OCCUR HERE" THE IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICTS IN NICARAGUA HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT "DOCTRINAL CONFUSION IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE CHURCH" QUOTING ONCE AGAIN, RIVERA POINTED OUT THE GRAVITY

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OF "THE WOUNDS INFLICTED ON THE FAITHFUL BY THOSE WHO DEMEAN OR DISOBEY THE GUIDANCE OF THE POPE AND HIS BISHOPS." THIS, QUOTED RIVERA, "BECOMES SCANDALOUS WHEN THOSE WHO DO SO ARE PRIESTS AND OTHER RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN." THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL, SAID RIVERA STILL QUOTING THE LETTER, " PERCEIVES THE NEED FOR UNITY BETWEEN PRIESTS AND OTHER CHURCHMEN ON THE ONE HAND AND THE POPE AND HIS BISHOPS ON THE OTHER AND END BY LOSING THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THOSE WHO THEY (THE FAITHFUGV SEE AS BEING IN DISCORD OR DISRESPENZFUL OF THE POPE." ADDING HIS OWN COMMENT, RIVERA STATED THAT THE NICKNAGUAN PEOPLE SUFFERED MUCH AND FOUGHT LONG AND HARD IN ORDER TO LIBERATE ITSELF FROM DICTATORSHIP. HE HOPED, HE SAID THAT THAT STRUGGLE WOULD BRING LIBERTY AND TRANQUILITY TO THAT PEOPLE.
RIVERA ENDED HIS "CIVIL EVENTS" COMMENTARY BY SPEAKING ABOUT THE "CONFLICTIVE SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE MANNER IN WHICH IT IS UNFOLDING." ON THE ONE HAND HE CONDEMNED THE INDISCRIMINATE REPRESSION BY THE ARMY AND THE SECURITY FORCES. HE DENOUNCED AS ELEMENTS OF THIS REPRESSION THE ABUSIVE MANNER IN WHICH THESE FORCES ENGAGE IN SEARCHES OF TOWNS AND HOUSES AND THE ARBITRARY DETENTION AND FREQUENT ASSASSINATIONS OF MANY CITIZENS.
ALL OF THIS, HE SAID, IS DONE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE STATE OF SEIGE L W.
ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID RIVERA, "THE SAME IS ALSO DONE BY THE GROUPS OF THE LEFT." HE CITED THE NOV 14 INCIDENT IN SAN ESTEBAN CATARINA. HE SAID THAT IN REPRISAL FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD KILLINGS OF SEVERAL GUERRILLAS ("ORGANIZADOS") ARMED INDIVIDUALS ("GENTE ARMADA") HAD CAPTURED A GROUP OF TOWNSFOLK WHO WERE ENGAGED IN HARVESTING THEIR CROPS. SO FAR, SAID RIVERA, ELEVEN OF THE CAPTURED PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FOUND DEAD; HE NAMED FIVE OF THE ELEVEN. RIVERA SAID THAT ALSO WORTH NOTHING WAS THE NOV 13 ATTACK AGAINST A TRUCK FULL OF POLICE. THE BISHOP CALLED THIS ACT "YET ANOTHER OF AN INHUMEGNYLE NUMBER OF ACTS MARKED BY AN INHUMAN, IRRATIONAL AND PRIMITIVE VIOLENCE." HE SAID THAT IT DEMONSTRATED THAT "THERE ARE TOO MANY MEN IN THIS COUNTRY WHO HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS' OR THAT WAR IS WAR". RIVERA SAID THAT VIEWED FROM A CHRISTIAN POINT OF VIEW THE DEATHS OF THE SEVERAL POLICE WHO WERE KILLED WERE COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIABLE. HE NOTED ALSO THE LACK OF ANY CONCERN BY THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT THE ATTACK FOR THE SAFETY OF THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED.
FINALLY, RIVERA SPOKE ABOUT THE NEED FOR A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT ABASED ON A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE CONTENDING FACTIONS. AT LEAST, SAID RIVERA, THE CONFLICT SHOULD BE "HUMANIZED" AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. OTHERWISE, HE SAID IT WILL LEAD TO A NATIONAL BREAAH THAT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME.
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8 JUL 1982
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